

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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O 102338Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0144

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL VISIT - SURVEYS - INVESTIGATION
COMMITTEE, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 118098, B) HAYNE/WALTERS TELCON MAY 10

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES USEFUL ON-SITE VISITS TO VARIOUS
IFI PROJECTS IN MEXICO AND WELCOMES VISIT STAFFDEL.
CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT IS E/C OFFICER JOE MC DONALD,
HOME TELEPHONE 520-05-10.
2. LOCAL IDB REPRESENTATIVE HAS OFFERED TO RECEIVE AND
COOPERATE WITH STAFFDEL, WHILE NOTING THAT GOM CON-
CURRENCE NECESSARY FOR TRIPS TO PROJECTS.
3. AS WE INFORMED MR. L. M. WALTERS BY TELEPHONE (STAFF
MEMBER, SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE), SECURING
GOM CONCURRENCE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE IS PROVING MAJOR
PROBLEM. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MINISTRIES OF
FOREIGN RELATIONS, TREASURY AND PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET.
LATTER MINISTRY HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT WHICH APPEARS TO BE MAJOR INTEREST OF
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STAFFDEL, AND ITS COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL TO VISIT
FIELD PROJECTS; WHEN WE TELEPHONED DIRECTOR OF DEVELOP-
MENT CARLOS VIDALI, HE INSISTED AMBASSADOR SEND FORMAL
WRITTEN REQUEST TO MINISTER OF PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET.
REQUEST WOULD THEN BE DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS
AND POSSIBLY WITH PRESIDENT. VIDALI SAID ANSWER MIGHT
WELL BE A DIPLOMATIC "NO". A BANK OF MEXICO OFFICIAL

REACTED CAUTIOUSLY AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH HIS SUPERIORS.

4. AS DEPARTMENT MAY BE AWARE, GOM HAS IN PAST REACTED ADVERSELY TO PROPOSED FIELD INVESTIGATIONS BY U.S. CONGRESS OF IFI PROJECTS IN MEXICO. THEY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE IFI'S.

5. AS THERE IS OBVIOUSLY NO HOPE OF RECEIVING PERMISSION IN TIME FOR VISIT BY MANNER SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, WE HAVE SENT WRITTEN REQUEST DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR ARMENDARIZ, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL AND COPIES TO OTHER AGENCIES. ARMENDARIZ'S PERSONAL REACTION WAS FAVORABLE TO VISIT, BUT HE ADMITTED SUBJECT FELL OUTSIDE OF HIS AREA. HE PROMISED TO CHECK AND LET US KNOW. PROBLEM HERE IS THAT EVEN IF FOREIGN MINISTRY IS RECEPTIVE TO OUR REQUEST, THERE IS ALMOST NO WAY IT CAN SECURE COOPERATION OF PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET IN LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE U.S. TEAM ARRIVES. WE ARE PREPARED TO ARGUE STRONGLY RIGHT OF USG CONGRESS DIRECTLY TO EVALUATE PROGRAMS, BUT ARE IN A WEAK POSITION TO ARGUE ISSUE OF 3-DAY ADVANCE NOTICE.

6. WITHOUT GOM EXPRESS APPROVAL, U.S. TEAMS WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIMITED TO TALKING TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND IDB. MR. WALTERS EXPRESSED INTEREST ALSO IN SEEING TWO PRIVATE CITIZENS, ANTONIO ENRIQUEZ SAVIGNAC AND ADOLFO ORIVE ALBA. LATTER WAS FIRED FROM HIS FORMER POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF SICARTSA. THERE IS PRESS SPECULATION, AT LEAST, THAT ORIVE ALBA'S CONDUCT IN OFFICE WILL RESULT IN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THAT PERIOD OF VISIT COMES DURING MEXICAN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WHEN ALMOST ALL GOM OFFICIALS LEAVE TOWN. ENRIQUEZ SAVIGNAC RESIGNED AS UNDER SECRETARY FOR TOURISM SOME TIME AGO AND IS NOW A VICE PRESIDENT OF BANCO NACIONAL DE MEXICO, A PRIVATE BANK.

7. WE EXPLAINED ABOVE TO MR. WALTERS WHO REPLIED THAT CONGRESSIONAL TEAM PLANNED COME ANYWAY AND ASKED THAT EMBASSY DO WHAT IT CAN TO SECURE PERMISSION. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIELD TRIPS, BUT CANNOT SET UP APPOINTMENTS WITH GOM OFFICIALS PENDING RECEIPT OF GOM O.K.

8. WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH IFI PROGRAMS MAY WISH TO TRY TO PERSUADE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF TO POSTPONE

VISIT UNTIL WE HAVE TIME TO WORK OUT THE BASIS FOR SUCH
A VISIT IN A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY MANNER. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO07761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780199-0394
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780574/aaaackxe.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 404d30a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION A
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 118098
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2736866
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STAFFDEL VISIT - SURVEYS - INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
TAGS: OREP, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/404d30a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014